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Summary record of the 17th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 27 October 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Cujba (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Republic of Moldova)
later: Mr. Elsherbini (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Egypt)

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In the absence of Mr. Argüello (Argentina), Mr. Cujba (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 31: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Mungkalaton** (Thailand) said that his Government believed that the various regions should take more responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Thailand itself had for the last two decades provided nearly 20,000 troops to peacekeeping operations around the globe.

2. The root causes of the increasingly complex conflicts the United Nations dealt with had to be addressed and, in order to prevent countries from relapsing into conflict, peacekeeping operations must also involve national empowerment and long-term capacity-building in areas such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, development, good governance, security sector reform and the establishment of institutions, as a way of preparing countries for the post-conflict peacebuilding phase. Such multidimensional operations demanded a common vision and strategy, requiring better cooperation among all those involved, both within the United Nations system and elsewhere. Unity of command was also the major challenge facing the restructured Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the new Department of Field Support, which should follow a coordinated approach such as that exemplified by the integrated operations teams at Headquarters that supported field missions.

3. Peacekeeping operations must strictly observe international human rights and humanitarian law with regard to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and to the question of sexual exploitation and abuse, and they must at the same time strictly observe the three basic principles of consent, minimum use of force and impartiality.

4. Although the Sixth Committee was responsible for considering the criminal accountability of United Nations personnel and experts on missions, the question directly affected peacekeeping operations and needed clear legal definition, since between 2004 and 2006 over 300 peacekeepers had been investigated for alleged criminal acts.

5. The safety of peacekeeping personnel was another issue of paramount importance. The credibility of the United Nations was at stake if a peacekeeping mission could not protect itself, let alone the people it was mandated to protect. The recent deadly attack on troops in Darfur was a classic example of a mission operating in a place where there was very little peace. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) required more resources, a better strategy and the deployment of well-equipped, effective personnel if it was to respond properly to emergencies and survive them. Also alarming were the attacks targeting the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). The reasons behind all such attacks must be understood and, if necessary, the strategy of the relevant peacekeeping operation should be revised.

6. There had been a surge in the demand for peacekeeping operations from year to year, and no doubt the enormous budget required to support them would only increase. It was time to plan for that. His delegation paid tribute to all who had served or were serving in the peacekeeping missions, and especially to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in order to maintain international peace and security.

7. *Mr. Elsherbini (Egypt), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

8. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) observed that the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations involvement in peacekeeping was an occasion not only to pay tribute to those who had served the cause of peace, but also to take stock of the many lessons learned and to assess how to move forward.

9. The peacekeeping budget had ballooned to over $7 billion annually, almost doubling the Organization's regular budget. While peacekeeping was undoubtedly very cost-effective, its growing cost was putting increasing pressure on small developing States with limited resources that were facing particular constraints in a time of global crises. Efforts must assuredly be made to find new approaches to the establishment of peace and security in countries emerging from conflict.

10. The international community should be assiduous in addressing and, indeed, eliminating the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, competition for scarce resources, unemployment and the systemic violation of human rights, to name a few; and it must develop early warning and early response systems to developing

conflicts. At a minimum, the developed countries must honour their commitments to help the developing countries meet their social and economic goals.

11. Significant investment should be made in the conflict-prevention capabilities of the United Nations, in part by strengthening the Department of Political Affairs so that potential zones of instability and tension could be identified, and mediation and other steps taken to avert full-scale conflict. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Commission must work together more seamlessly, since both were striving to achieve the same ends.

12. In addition to the welcome renewal of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), in a country that had been severely tried in the past year on several fronts, the international community must supplement the capacity-building projects of the Caribbean Community in Haiti by addressing the country's long-term social, economic and development needs.

13. In Darfur, the delay in making UNAMID fully operational was a matter of grave concern. All Member States should provide the funding, equipment or personnel needed to launch that operation properly and all must desist from actions that could deepen the crisis, jeopardize the safety of the civilian population and United Nations personnel or prevent access to humanitarian relief.

14. Jamaica was steadfast in its support for the work of all United Nations departments and bodies involved in peacekeeping. Unfortunately, however, there had been recurrent delays in the issuance of the annual report of the main policymaking body, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

15. The United Nations must maintain its zero-tolerance policy with regard to sexual abuse and exploitation on the part of peacekeeping personnel, which tarnished the reputation not only of those individuals but, more importantly, of the United Nations and their countless other fellow peacekeepers. The safety and security of peacekeeping personnel also remained a primary concern in the light of the recent deadly attacks in Darfur. Jamaica, with police officers in missions in Timor-Leste, Darfur, Liberia and soon, Haiti, looked forward to building on that modest contribution in the years to come.

16. **Mr. Muburi-Muita** (Kenya) said that his country's contribution of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions over the years and its mediation of conflicts in its region was testimony to its commitment to the cause of peace. Kenya currently had troops serving in seven missions, six in Africa and one in Kosovo. It firmly supported a multilateral approach to conflict resolution and supported the maintenance of international peace and security by regional organizations. The African Union and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations should strengthen political and technical cooperation with each other and with subregional organizations, and the African Union's peacekeeping capabilities should be expanded. Since the United Nations could not be everywhere at all times, the peacekeeping burden must be shared through genuine partnerships, allowing the Department to focus on its core business and move away from areas it was not able to handle. The various international, regional and subregional centres in Kenya providing peacekeeping support should be assisted by the international community.

17. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support should coordinate their work. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the restructuring process, which should allow speedier processing of death and disability claims for personnel serving in peacekeeping missions. The current imbalance in the geographical representation of senior staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was another matter that should be redressed.

18. Any misconduct, or even a perception of impropriety was detrimental to the relations between peacekeepers and the local population. All United Nations personnel should behave in a manner that preserved the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the Organization. The troop-contributing countries had primary responsibility for maintaining discipline among their contingents and for investigating charges of misconduct, with appropriate assistance from the United Nations. The United Nations must continue to maintain a policy of zero-tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, and must assist the victims. Awareness training before deployment, timely rotation and opportunity for recreation could minimize such incidents and should be included in any memorandum

of understanding between the United Nations and the troop-contributing countries.

19. The safety and security of United Nations personnel was paramount. There must be constant security surveys by the heads of peacekeeping missions, regularly updated, to ensure that peacekeepers were not exposed to foreseeable dangers; and in general, the information and analysis components of senior mission management should be improved.

20. **Mr. Khair** (Jordan), recalling that recently Jordanian peacekeeping troops had worked unstintingly alongside their counterparts in MINUSTAH to provide critical help in the aftermath of the devastating disasters that had struck Haiti, said that the many dimensions of the work of peacekeepers, who were successfully helping countries emerge from a troubled past, deserved to be celebrated during the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping. Jordan acknowledged the debt owed to the United Nations personnel who had worked in its own unstable and conflict-ravaged region to preserve the peace. It was proud to be part of that same lofty enterprise in other parts of the world. With over 3,000 Jordanians currently participating in peacekeeping missions, his country was now seventh in terms of its contribution to the cause.

21. Jordan was part of the small group of troop-contributing countries consulting closely with the Security Council on the various stages of United Nations peacekeeping operations, especially where risks were involved. Peacekeeping, however, could not be a substitute for a permanent solution, and United Nations operations should be part of a larger, inclusive peace process that was carefully designed and had the support of the parties concerned. Any peacekeeping mission must abide strictly by the agreed guiding principles: consent, non-use of force except in self-defence, impartiality, clearly defined mandates and secure financing.

22. To ensure the safety and security of personnel, regular risk assessment and information-sharing was crucial and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must keep its channels open to the permanent missions at Headquarters to guarantee prompt transmission of information with regard to casualties or incidents.

23. His delegation remained concerned about the staffing of that Department and the Department of Field Support. Jordan itself was not sufficiently represented at the professional level despite its readiness, and the Secretary-General must deal with the current geographic imbalance and underrepresentation of troop-contributing countries in administrative positions. In the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the discernable political divisions among its members should be set aside, for they would only hamper efforts to meet the peacekeeping challenges. He paid tribute to the courageous peacekeepers who had lost their lives in a noble cause.

24. **Mr. Khan** (Bangladesh) said that United Nations peacekeeping had become a powerful, indispensable tool for keeping peace in regions across the globe emerging from conflicts. The role of peacekeepers had changed markedly in recent years and now extended to humanitarian and development needs, disarmament, national reconciliation, peacebuilding, promotion of the rule of law, facilitation of the return of refugees, intermission cooperation and the like.

25. Bangladesh was proud to be taking an active part in peacekeeping operations even in the most difficult and hostile environments. In the past 20 years, nearly 80,000 Bangladeshi peacekeepers had participated in 33 missions, and currently 10,000 were deployed in 14 missions across the world. As one of the major troop-contributing countries, its troops had comprised at least 10 per cent of the peacekeeping forces for the past 12 years. The price of peacekeeping had at times been very high: nearly 100 Bangladeshi peacekeepers had sacrificed their lives. His delegation paid tribute to all those who had died in the cause of peace.

26. Peacebuilding was now a specialized field, as recognized in the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, Support Office and Fund. At the same time, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been restructured and the Department of Field Support had been created. It was time to take stock of the outcome of such a major restructuring exercise.

27. Meaningful, frequent dialogue among the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat in all phases of mission planning and implementation was critical to the success of a mission, bringing the necessary expertise to bear and giving all concerned a sense of ownership and unity. An adequate number of forces should be deployed in any given

mission, and contingents should be given responsibilities that were within their capabilities and the agreed limits. Memorandums of understanding should be signed quickly upon deployment of contingents, and reimbursements for maintaining troops in the field and providing contingent-owned equipment should be timely. If Member States paid their assessed contributions in full and on time, the problems related to the peacekeeping budget would be resolved.

28. In matters of conduct and discipline, Bangladesh unequivocally supported the zero-tolerance policy relating to sexual misconduct and abuse by mission personnel. Stringent measures should be put in place both at the organizational and national levels, and the revised draft memorandum of understanding adopted by the General Assembly might help to deal with the issue more effectively.

29. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (China) said that considerable progress had been achieved in peacekeeping operations over the past year. Structural reform of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support was proceeding apace, and cooperation between the United Nations and other regional organizations was expanding. A number of important actions were needed in order to meet new challenges and bridge the gaps between the Organization's capabilities and the expectations of Member States.

30. First, it was necessary to continue to uphold the three basic principles governing peacekeeping operations, namely the consent of Member States, neutrality, and the non-use of force except in self-defence. It was only by abiding by those principles that the legitimacy of peacekeeping operations could be ensured. Secondly, deepening the reform of peacekeeping operations must be and optimizing their management was an important means of achieving further progress. Some improvements in efficiency, resource management, command systems, partnerships and training had already been achieved, but new international situations demanded peacekeeping operations of increasing length and complexity, as well as greater and more seamless cooperation and coordination among the partners involved. Thirdly, strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations was an important factor in the success of peacekeeping operations, and would ensure that the planning and implementation of such operations were more responsive to the actual needs on the ground. The recently adopted Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) emphasized the necessity of building effective partnerships with regional organizations, and as such provided an example for future endeavours in that regard.

31. China attached importance to, and had consistently supported the role of, United Nations peacekeeping operations in maintaining international peace and stabilizing conflict situations. To date, over 11,000 Chinese peacekeepers had taken part in 18 peacekeeping operations; the special engineering unit sent to Darfur in the Sudan constituted a further important step in China's continuing active participation in United Nations peacekeeping.

32. **Mr. Palihakkara** (Sri Lanka) said that, in view of the increasing complexity and scope of United Nations peacekeeping operations, he wished to reiterate the importance of strictly observing the basic principles of the United Nations in governing such operations, namely the consent of the parties, neutrality and the non-use of force, except in self-defence. Observance of those principles would continue to be essential to the success of peacekeeping missions and to ensuring the safety of peacekeeping personnel. However, the success of peacekeeping missions also depended on the political support they received and on the adequate and timely provision of financial, logistical and human resources.

33. Peacekeeping operations had provided opportunities for personnel from different parts of the world to work together for common goals, but such efforts should be made mutually rewarding for the personnel involved and for the local peoples they served. Effective and efficient coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support and with field missions at all levels was of paramount importance to the success of peacekeeping operations. In order to ensure the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, peacekeeping missions should have clearly defined mandates and achievable targets, as well as contingency plans and exit strategies. Furthermore, troop-contributing countries should be closely involved in decisions with respect to new missions or the extension of the mandates of current missions. The expertise and experience of troop-contributing countries should be put to the best use, and undue communication delays should be prevented, especially in emergency situations involving casualties.

34. In view of the need for adequate staffing of the two departments, he once again called on the Secretary-General to ensure fair and equitable representation of troop-contributing countries from the developing world on the decision-making and professional-level staff, in the Secretariat as well as in the field missions. An efficient and transparent competitive recruitment system was needed for selecting candidates for United Nations vacancies.

35. His delegation remained committed to the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations. In that regard, the revised model memorandum of understanding should be incorporated into existing memorandums of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries for early implementation, as that would clarify issues of jurisdiction. While his delegation did not condone violations of the United Nations code of conduct by peacekeepers, it deemed it important to safeguard the principle of presumption of innocence and to prevent the media from sensationalizing unsubstantiated accusations. In a broader context, many complex issues arising in the course of multilateral peacekeeping could be addressed through open, transparent and constructive engagement, for which the Special Committee on Peacekeeping was the best and most capable forum.

36. **Mr. Davide** (Philippines) said that the Philippines had been an active partner in United Nations peacekeeping for almost five decades, and took particular pride in being among the top three police-contributing countries. As part of its ongoing commitment to United Nations peacekeeping, the Philippines was prepared to participate in the United Nations Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS) and expected to complete screening of another 600 police officers by the end of October 2008. It had also completed its own policy framework and guidelines on participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, which institutionalized the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse as well as all other possible misconduct in mission areas by Filipino peacekeepers.

37. He expressed appreciation to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for approving and accepting the secondment of two Philippine Army officers to the Office of Military Affairs, thus paving the way for the sustained participation of the Philippines in peacekeeping activities at United Nations Headquarters. He also commended the Public Affairs Unit of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts to increase public understanding and appreciation of the role of United Nations peacekeepers; close cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information would be needed to undertake information projects targeting audiences in the troop-contributing countries as well as the host countries, thereby broadening awareness of the contributions of peacekeepers.

38. He reiterated the need to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers and to inform troop-contributing countries of developments related to peacekeeper deaths or injuries. In that regard, he drew attention to the fact that it was only after eight months and repeated requests for information by his Permanent Mission that UNMIS had confirmed that the Filipino peacekeeper who had recently died from malaria while serving with that Mission could have been prevented had he been properly diagnosed. His delegation was of the view that deaths from health-related or other non-hostile causes could be prevented not only by proper screening, training and supervision, but also through the provision of the support systems needed in the field.

39. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Ukraine) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement delivered by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union. Any reform of peacekeeping must be aimed at enhancing the efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping, which must be carried out in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. The Secretariat should continue to work with Member States to ensure that quick deployment reserves operated effectively and at their full capacity, and should play a more proactive and flexible role in the integrated mission planning process, both at United Nations Headquarters and in field missions. He welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to restructure the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, but in view of current shortcomings, Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat needed to work more closely together. He also shared the concerns of other delegations regarding the lack of transparency in the recruitment process, noting that priority should be given to highly qualified, well-educated and experienced candidates from troop-contributing countries.

40. Ukraine was deeply concerned over the increasing threats to United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel, especially the recent incidents involving targeted attacks on UNAMID and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) peacekeepers. Ensuring the safety of such personnel must be central to any peacekeeping operation. The levels of risk must also be assessed prior to the establishment of a mission as well as periodically throughout its mandate. He expressed the hope that the recommendations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations regarding its investigation into the events of 17 March 2008 in Mitrovica, Kosovo would be properly implemented by the UNMIK authorities.

41. He supported continued efforts to improve training for United Nations peacekeeping operations personnel, and looked forward to a substantive dialogue on consolidating military, police and civilian training capacities in the context of the Integrated Training Service. Further development of partnership and interaction with regional and subregional organizations could help the United Nations to meet current challenges in peacekeeping. He also welcomed the establishment of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, and attached great importance to efforts aimed at maintaining high standards of conduct of all United Nations personnel; acts of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as other forms of misconduct by United Nations peacekeepers undermined confidence in the Organization and could not remain unpunished.

42. **Mr. Sin** Son Ho (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations were frequently abused. In the Security Council, decisions on peacekeeping operations were taken in the interest of particular States, resulting in a loss of confidence among Member States in the Security Council and in United Nations activities overall. To ensure that peacekeeping operations were carried out in accordance with the core principles of respect for sovereignty, non-interference, consent of the parties concerned, and impartiality, the fairness and accountability of the Security Council in all its actions should be guaranteed. Those peacekeeping operations that did not help to end conflicts or were no longer effective in maintaining international peace and security should be terminated. Urgent measures should be taken to alleviate the heavy burdens imposed on developing countries by United Nations peacekeeping operations.

43. His delegation was particularly concerned that actions harmful to the image and credibility of the United Nations should not be tolerated. As an example, he cited the use of the term "United Nations Command" in South Korea to describe what was actually an entity of the United States Army that had no relation at all to the United Nations. It was highly abnormal that such an entity should continue to exist 55 years after the signing of an armistice agreement in Korea; it had become an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration for Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity of 4 October 2007, and should be dismantled immediately in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3390 (XXX).

44. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that given the prevalence of sexualized violence as a weapon of war, United Nations personnel must fully adhere to the Organization's zero-tolerance policy on such abuse. Breaches of that policy undermined operational effectiveness and confidence in the United Nations as a whole.

45. The increase in the number, size and complexity of peacekeeping operations represented a tremendous challenge, one that the Organization could only meet by making use of all available resources in the field in an integrated manner, while also ensuring adequate coordination between departments at Headquarters and relevant United Nations entities. Indeed, the challenges facing the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) clearly illustrated the importance of integration and cooperation at all levels, both within the United Nations and with other international actors.

46. Norway's project on integrated missions had demonstrated that more authority should be delegated to the field, so as to enable the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to facilitate speedier implementation of plans; in addition, further reform of the current administrative and procedural arrangements was required for effective delivery.

47. Her Government was providing financial support to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to stimulate the development of a system-wide

approach to security sector reform. National reform of security structures was key to lasting peace and, as such, should be part of the exit strategy of all United Nations operations. Norway was also spearheading the development of joint mission analysis centres, which contributed significantly to the security of civilians and United Nations personnel by increasing situational awareness.

48. As United Nations peacekeeping missions were operating in increasingly complex environments, there was an ever greater need for high-quality personnel and equipment. She expressed concern at some host countries' attempts to impose geographical or other caveats on participation, a practice that restricted the possibility of selecting the most capable candidates and undermined the principle of universality. In keeping with that principle, women should not only be involved in the formulation of the mandates for peacekeeping operations but also in their implementation, including through the deployment of more uniformed female personnel.

49. Her delegation also welcomed the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs, noting the need to continue reforming the peacekeeping apparatus to respond to the ever-increasing burden of operations and to continue attracting high-quality personnel. However, it was not enough to have high-quality personnel and equipment; as the situation in Darfur, Chad and the Central African Republic demonstrated, mandates must be linked to credible political processes.

50. She commended the European Union for providing military support for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for its decision to escort ships carrying supplies for the World Food Programme in Somalia, a country whose population depended heavily on food assistance. The African Union's current involvement in Somalia underscored the need to clarify what kind of support the international community could provide for African Union operations established under a United Nations mandate. Her Government remained committed to the development of African peacekeeping capacities, having trained 400 police officers for UNAMID.

51. **Mr. Hoang Chi Trung** (Viet Nam) lauded the contributions of peacekeeping operations to the maintenance of international peace and security over the previous 60 years. Peacekeeping had continued to evolve over the years to address the challenges arising from a variety of conflicts and political realities. The increasing complexity and protracted nature of conflicts had led to an abrupt surge in demand for peacekeeping in recent years, overextending the capacity of the Organization.

52. His delegation believed that the success of peacekeeping operations would continue to depend upon the strict observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. It was of paramount importance to establish and conduct peacekeeping operations on the basis of the consent of the concerned parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence. Moreover, operations should be accompanied by inclusive peace processes and provided with clearly defined and achievable mandates, command structures, adequate resources and exit strategies.

53. The Committee should conduct in-depth analyses of the two major issues currently faced by United Nations peacekeeping activities, namely, sexual misconduct by peacekeepers and inadequately funded mandates with a view to formulating corrective measures. In that connection, he welcomed the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the establishment of the Department of Field Support. In the efforts aimed at improving the Organization's management of peacekeeping operations, equal attention should be given to the importance of unity of command, lines of accountability, integration of efforts and the safety and security of peacekeepers. Comprehensive measures must also be taken to address the issue of safety and security of peacekeepers and associated personnel. His delegation fully supported the activities undertaken to implement the zero-tolerance policy regarding acts of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, by all categories of United Nations personnel and called for further action to be taken in that regard.

54. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), paying tribute to all peacekeepers as the international community commemorated 60 years of United Nations peacekeeping, said that the Organization was the most effective tool for preventing crises and ensuring

regional and global stability. Recent crises in Africa and the situation in Afghanistan, Iraq and Darfur demonstrated the need to strengthen the authority of the United Nations and its Security Council with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security. To that end, the Organization's peacekeeping capacity should be further improved. However, operations must continue to be based strictly on the Charter and on such fundamental peacekeeping principles as the consent of the parties involved and the non-use of force except in self-defence, hence the importance of further developing the Capstone Doctrine, which set forth clear guidelines for peacekeeping activities. Her delegation fully supported efforts to strengthen the capacity of United Nations peacekeeping.

55. In order to strengthen missions operating in crisis situations and prevent the spread of destructive conflicts worldwide, a rapidly deployable United Nations strategic reserve force should be established. Furthermore, the inclusion of new members in the United Nations Standby Arrangements System should be considered and a close partnership should be promoted with relevant regional and intergovernmental organizations. She reiterated Kazakhstan's readiness to make the personnel and equipment of its peacekeeping brigade available for peacekeeping operations. Her Government fulfilled its financial obligations to the Organization in a timely manner and contributed regularly to its peacekeeping budgets, supported the Peace Operations 2010 reform agenda and welcomed the progress made in restructuring United Nations peacekeeping capacities. Lastly, she endorsed the recommendations and conclusions set forth in the reports of the Secretary-General.

56. **Mr. Álvarez** (Uruguay), reiterating his country's long-standing commitment to the maintenance of peace and security through peacekeeping operations, said that Uruguay would continue to participate in and support such operations in accordance, inter alia, with the guidelines set forth in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi report, S/2000/809 thus cited in several 3rd and 4th Committee SRs from 2000, e.g., A/C.4/55/SR.21) and deepening consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. In that context, Uruguay condemned sexual misconduct and abuse by peacekeepers and favoured efforts to ensure their safety and security.

57. Latin American countries had played a crucial leadership role in MINUSTAH, an operation that had undertaken post-conflict reconstruction and humanitarian activities in addition to security-related ones. In that context, he welcomed Security Council resolution 1840 (2008), which had renewed the Mission's mandate, and called upon the international community to continue its support of MINUSTAH.

58. Recent experiences had shown that after peace had been achieved it had to be consolidated in order to prevent conflict-affected countries from relapsing into conflict. Additional measures needed to consolidate peace included promoting economic and social development, fostering political stability and respect for the rule of law, rebuilding infrastructure and strengthening institutions. Such a difficult task could only be achieved by adopting a comprehensive and coordinated approach; in that connection, he lauded the activities undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in cooperation with the Department of Field Support and the Department of Political Affairs.

59. The experiences amassed by Latin American countries, including his own, in peacebuilding and reconstruction in conflict-affected areas could contribute to international efforts to build stable, democratic and prosperous societies capable of resolving internal conflicts.

60. **Mr. Valero** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that while his Government recognized the contribution of United Nations peacekeeping operations to a safer and more stable world, such operations had in recent years, gone beyond their mandate taking on the reconstruction of war-ravaged countries, which fell under the purview of local authorities. After 60 years of peacekeeping operations, there was an unprecedented number of active operations deployed around the world; however, the Organization's reputation had been tarnished by complaints of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by peacekeeping personnel. His Government fully supported the zero-tolerance policy on such abuse. Peacekeeping operations should strictly comply with the Charter of the United Nations and be governed by the principles of impartiality, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the non-use of force except in self-defence, and require the consent of the parties involved as a prerequisite for deployment. The sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States were also to be respected in all

cases. At the fourteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau, of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs had stressed that the establishment or expansion of peacekeeping operations must be governed by those principles. Although during the negotiations on General Assembly resolution 61/279 his delegation had expressed concern over the impact that the establishment of the Department of Field Support would have on the principle of unity of command in peacekeeping operations, it had, in a spirit of compromise, decided to support the resolution.

61. Closer cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat was needed in order to make peacekeeping operations more effective and efficient. At the Fifteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, foreign ministers had reiterated their unwavering position on the fundamental principles that governed United Nations peacekeeping operations.

62. **Mr. McCurry** (United States of America) said that his delegation supported strong, well-managed and efficient peacekeeping operations. They offered a credible international response to crisis, and that need continued to grow. He was pleased to note that substantial progress had been made on a wide range of issues over the past year. The United States would continue to monitor implementation of the Secretary-General's 2007 proposals to restructure the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and looked forward to seeing the relevant vacancies filled, including in the Department's Office of Military Affairs and in the Department of Field Support. Discussions on how best to staff and manage the Police Division of the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions in order to respond to the increased demands were welcome; the Secretary-General's forthcoming recommendations would be given detailed attention. It was to be hoped that the recommendations would be prioritized and that the most critical functions would be highlighted.

63. The United States supported the requirements identified in early 2008 by the Police Division, namely: the development of formed police unit policy and operations concepts; the secondment of police advisers to New York; funding to develop police doctrine; training manuals and unit readiness standards; materiel for formed police units; and the establishment of an association for international policing. The review of the Police Division should also include an examination of its capacity for managing the recruitment, selection and deployment of United Nations police. His delegation had concerns regarding the Division's current ability to adequately respond to the recent expansion in the number and roles of formed police units authorized for various missions, but was encouraged by the leadership shown by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in establishing a process for developing formed police unit doctrine.

64. Since it seemed that personnel in the field often had insufficient guidance on protecting civilians in armed conflict, the Department should develop specific guidance and doctrine as a matter of priority.

65. The United States continued to support efforts to ensure that 60 per cent of UNAMID was deployed by the end of the year, including the timely issuance of visas to peacekeepers. His delegation noted increasing efforts to protect humanitarian shipments to Somalia from pirates and looked forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations on possible multinational and peacekeeping approaches to that emergency.

66. While considerable progress had been made on the Organization's side in addressing all aspects of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, reports of such abuses continued. All troop- and police-contributing countries should thus make clear to their contingents that they expected the highest standard of conduct, in particular towards the vulnerable populations the United Nations was deployed to serve, and persons guilty of improper or criminal behaviour should be disciplined. Implementation of a true zero-tolerance policy was the only acceptable solution and constant vigilance was needed on the part of Member States to ensure that the United Nations maintained high standards, effective practices and unquestioned integrity.

67. **Mr. Habib** (Lebanon), noting the increasing number of peacekeeping operations, said that Member States should continue to provide the Organization with the assistance and support it needed in order to maintain international peace and security. Increased communication and coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support were required in order for peacekeepers to perform their duties at the highest level.

68. Security sector reform was an important aspect of complex peacekeeping operations. The creation of a professional and accountable security sector was a

crucial element in the transition from peacekeeping to sustainable peace and development. In that connection, the relationship between the United Nations and host countries should be based on respect for the sovereignty of States and reflect national priorities.

69. The speedy deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in response to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 1978 was a shining example of international collaboration in peacekeeping and of what could be achieved through close cooperation between peacekeeping forces and their host countries. Thanks to that cooperation, UNIFIL troops had become an integral part of the communities in which they were deployed. Over the past 30 years, UNIFIL and his Government had worked hard to bring calm and stability to the south of Lebanon. Israel, on the other hand, had continued its assault on peace, going so far as to attack innocent civilians who had taken shelter in the UNIFIL compound in Qana. It had not lived up to its obligations under Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and continued to undermine the quest for peace by refusing to cooperate with UNIFIL and impeding the demarcation of the Blue Line. In addition, Israel had continued its almost daily violations of Lebanese airspace.

70. In spite of repeated entreaties, Israel had refused to provide UNIFIL with information regarding locations on which it had dropped millions of cluster bombs during its aggression against Lebanon in 2006. Those bombs had killed hundreds of Lebanese civilians as well as a number of international workers and UNIFIL troops. In that connection, it was incumbent on Member States to cooperate fully in order to ensure the safety of peacekeepers. Lastly, Israel continued to occupy Lebanese territory and to threaten the civilian population of southern Lebanon. His Government therefore called on Member States to live up to their responsibility of maintaining regional stability and to demand that Israel should comply with all relevant resolutions and the ceasefire.

71. **Mr. Amil** (Pakistan) said that Pakistan was a leading and consistent contributor of military and police personnel, currently accounting for 12 per cent of United Nations peacekeeping deployments. It also contributed actively to relevant policy discussion at Headquarters. Peacekeeping had brought hope to millions of people afflicted by conflict. Notable successes in recent years had raised expectations and increased demand, while crises had become more complex and challenging. Member States had a collective responsibility to ensure that the United Nations was able to respond rapidly and effectively on a range of key issues. Peacekeeping must also be adapted to changing requirements, with a strengthening of capacities both in the field and at Headquarters. It was vital to ensure that the recent restructuring resulted in greater efficiency and effectiveness.

72. Since any deviation from the basic principles of peacekeeping would jeopardize the success of operations, they must not be confused with those led by non-United Nations entities. Unified command and control must be ensured across the board. It was also vital to demonstrate that United Nations peacekeeping could also deliver in inter-State conflicts that endangered international peace and security. The poor track record in that regard must be reversed.

73. Complex crises required a comprehensive approach that addressed the root causes of conflicts and prevented relapse. A genuine interface between peacekeeping and peacebuilding was essential to formulating correct exit strategies and laying foundations for sustainable peace and development. Missions should be clear, realistic and informed by realities on the ground. If based on political expediencies or cost considerations, they would lead to failure and erode the credibility of the Organization. To ensure the safety and security of personnel, adequate resources must be made available from the outset and sustained at every stage. Well-resourced missions were also better able to ensure proper conduct and discipline. An agreement must also be reached on a credible and feasible rapid deployment capacity.

74. True partnership should be promoted between the Secretariat, Security Council and troop-contributing countries, with the latter adequately represented in decision-making positions both in the field and at Headquarters. If that long-standing issue was not addressed, their continued support could not be ensured. Pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, cooperation in peacekeeping operations with regional and subregional organizations should be explored, in order to make use of comparative advantages, expertise and resources. Primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security must, however, rest with the United Nations.

75. Pakistan supported enhanced cooperation with the African Union and a strengthening of peacekeeping capacity in Africa. The success or failure of peacekeeping operations depended on the support and commitment of Member States, hence the importance of undertaking peacekeeping actions collectively and in full respect of the Charter. Lack of political will must not, however, prevent the Organization from extending support where it was most needed, as in Somalia.

76. **Mr. Rabiu** (Nigeria) said that his country was the fourth largest contributor of troops and had never hesitated to respond unconditionally to demands for sacrifices, whether in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Liberia or the Sudan. The challenges in Darfur were enormous, but the United Nations could not afford to fail there. Resolute steps must be taken to ensure that UNAMID was fully deployed. The Government of the Sudan, for its part, should urgently facilitate that objective.

77. Like all troop-contributing countries, Nigeria was concerned about the safety and security of its peacekeepers wherever they were deployed. The recent killing of two Nigerian peacekeepers in Darfur must not go unpunished. Reliable operational and tactical intelligence was needed to pre-empt potential threats and ensure the safety and security both of peacekeepers and civilians. The Organization must also do more to bring troop numbers to agreed levels. A universally acceptable and uniform standard of compensation for those wounded or killed in action should also be devised.

78. In its quest for global peace and security, the international community must make full use of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and strategies for global socio-economic development. Peacekeeping operations must have clearly defined mandates with unified command and control structures and be carried out in accordance with established principles. The prompt reimbursement of troop and equipment costs would greatly encourage Member States to contribute to operations.

79. Nigeria had been training its personnel in support of the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. Sustained consultations with troop-contributing countries at all stages were critical to the success of peacekeeping operations. The underrepresentation at senior management level of developing countries, particularly troop contributors, was a matter of deep concern, both at Headquarters and in the field. The lopsided staff structure should be reviewed and recruitment approached on a more egalitarian regional basis, through Galaxy.

80. **Mr. Choisuren** (Mongolia) said that peacekeeping faced unprecedented challenges which called for better planning, execution and coordination at all levels. Operations must be given substantial political support and provided with sufficient financial and human resources from the outset. The recommendations of the Brahimi report (S/2000/809) should also be fully implemented. Work on the "capstone doctrine" to guide peacekeeping missions must be accelerated, covering all stages, from predeployment to post-conflict peacebuilding.

81. Mongolia welcomed the restructuring under way, but, like other speakers, stressed that it must preserve unity of command and clear command structures and ensure effective cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. The establishment of integrated operational teams was a welcome development.

82. Attacks against United Nations personnel and property must be condemned. The security of all personnel was of the utmost importance and host countries and fighting parties had a primary responsibility in that regard. Risk assessment procedures and information-gathering and information-dissemination capacities should be enhanced, with troop-contributing countries involved at all stages.

83. Mongolia also reiterated its commitment to the zero-tolerance policy. New memorandums of understanding should also be developed as a matter of urgency, given the importance of deploying properly trained personnel. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to the exemplary Five Hills Training facility in Mongolia, which had been used for regional training activities.

84. **Mr. Buff** (Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) said that the protection of people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence was at the heart of the mandate of ICRC. Civilians were often directly targeted as part of a blatant strategy, and protection fell short, owing not to an inadequate legal framework, but to failures to comply with international humanitarian law.

85. With protection needs now far exceeding the capacity of any one actor, ICRC welcomed the recent enhancement of response efforts. Indeed, an increase in actors called for effective coordination that took different mandates and approaches into account. The constructive interaction established between ICRC and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, notably in the area of international humanitarian law promotion, was especially important since ICRC and United Nations peacekeepers increasingly coexisted in many operating environments. ICRC had a clear protection mandate given to it by States, while Security Council resolution 1674 (2006) suggested that peacekeeping, political and peacebuilding missions might, in certain cases, be mandated to protect civilians. Although both United Nations forces and ICRC endeavoured to protect civilians, their mandates, roles and approaches were distinct. ICRC, for its part, had a strictly humanitarian mission, which could not be blurred with any military, political or economic dimensions. It relied on proximity with people at risk and direct dialogue with all parties in a conflict. Establishing relationships with non-State actors was often an arduous and sensitive undertaking which risked being compromised if doubts arose with respect to the independence, neutrality, or purely humanitarian intentions of ICRC. Humanitarian efforts, political action, legal measures and physical protection were distinct aspects of a complementary protection response, each requiring different competencies and approaches. The latter should not be fused nor confused, nor need they result in duplication. Humanitarian work must be seen to be free of political or other associated interests, else humanitarian efforts would be severely undermined, putting civilians and humanitarian workers at even greater risk. ICRC and the United Nations had a common interest in defining an effective interface between their distinct — but complementary — approaches to protecting civilians.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.